

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
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New Aeronautics Competition for High School and College Students

A new aeronautics competition encourages high school and college students to share their ideas of future aircraft with NASA for a chance to receive trophies, student internship offers and cash prizes.

The Fundamental Aeronautics Program of the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate recently announced this new competition for the 2007-08 academic year.

The competition challenges students to write about the next generation of aircraft, what they would look like and how they would operate.

For the competition, high school students will write a research paper that explains ideas for a future aircraft that could revolutionize passenger and cargo travel in the year 2058.

Papers should include sections on fuel, environmental effects, noise levels, runway length and conditions, operating costs, passenger and cargo loads, and service operations.

A group of federal, university, industry and other expert representatives will judge the high school entries, which are limited to 12 pages.

Entries will be judged on how well students focus their essays and meet four basic criteria: informed content, creativity and imagination, organization, and writing.

Subject to availability of funds, team entries can win cash awards up to \$1,500 and individual entries up to \$1,000.

College students are challenged to write about their designs for the next generation of 21st-century aircraft.

Design considerations include reduced environmental impact, reduced noise, daily operations on short runways, cost analysis for production and operation, passenger and cargo limits, structure and materials, and engines.

Students should also briefly describe three valid scenarios for potential use of this vehicle in the year 2058.

Each college entry is limited to 25 pages and must be sponsored by a supervising or advising faculty member.

Winning entries may be invited to a student forum sponsored by NASA and/or industry, receive offers of student internships, and receive other prizes, including up to \$5,000 cash, depending on available funds.

College entries will be judged by how well they address all aspects of the problem they chose to discuss, including the following criteria: innovation and creativity, discussion of feasibility, a brief review of current literature, and a baseline comparison with the relevant current technology, system or design.

These two competitions have different eligibility and submission requirements.

To learn more about the competition, visit: <http://aero.larc.nasa.gov/competitions.htm>



Photo by Jacob Owens

Wallops Recognized for TacSat-2 Support

Representatives from Microsat Systems, Inc., Littleton, Co., were at Wallops on November 29 to recognize Wallops employees for the support that was provided for the launch of the TacSat-2 satellite on Dec. 16, 2006.

In recognizing Wallops, Microsat President, Jon Roth, noted the facility not only launched a rocket but also launched a company with the successful mission. Microsat developed the spacecraft bus. Wallops Director, John Campbell (center) is shown accepting a model of the TacSat-2 from Todd Mosher, Microsat's Director of Advanced Systems (left) and Roth. Also participating in the recognition were Ron Walsh, NASA project manager for the mission, and Rick Baldwin, Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport manager.

WFD Receives Award



Wallops Fire Department (WFD) was awarded "Best Modern Emergency Apparatus" during the Pocomoke City Christmas Parade held November 28.

WFD personnel (left to right) Willie Kirkpatrick, Chris Brasure, and Dave Kulley participated with rescue pumper 25-3 and crash truck 25-11.

On Saturday, December 1, WFD personnel Jeremie Buyea, Chris Brasure, and Brian Justice participated in the Chincoteague Christmas Parade with crash truck 25-11 and rescue pumper 25-3.

Another Dry Month

by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

With the end of November, the 2007 hurricane season came to a close.

November rainfall was two inches below normal with only 0.78 inches being recorded on six days, eight days is normal. The wettest day was the November 15 when 0.43 inches of precipitation was recorded.

Temperatures during November averaged about one-half degree below normal with an average temperature of 48.7 degrees. The warmest days were the November 1 and 22 when the mercury climbed to 74 degrees. A new daily record for the date was set on the 22nd with the reading of 74 degrees. The coldest morning was November 24 with a reading of 28 degrees. No record lows were set or tied.

Winds of 30 mph or greater were experienced on eight days. The strongest gust of 39 mph was recorded at 8:38 p.m. on the November 2.

Christmas is just around the corner and followed closely by a new year. January normally begins with high temperatures in the upper 40's, falling to around 43 degrees by the end of the month. Lows generally average 32 degrees on January 1 then fall into the mid 20's by mid-month before climbing back to 28 degrees on the January 31.

We can hope for an average rainfall of 3.12 inches in January falling on an average of 10 days. We also can expect three days with snow falling giving us an average monthly total snowfall of 2.91 inches.

Wallops Annual Awards Ceremony and Holiday Party



December 7 at 1 p.m.
Building E-100 Auditorium

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association Executive Board (WEMA) invites employees to the Holiday Party to be held in Building F-3, Rocket Club, immediately following the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony.

Briefing on the Demolition of Building E-108

December 4
1 p.m.
Building E-100, Auditorium

The Facilities Management Branch will present a Safety Briefing on the upcoming demolition of Building E-108.

The presentation will include a brief overview of the project while addressing parking issues, pedestrian issues, and other safety concerns. A question/answer period will follow the presentation.

For further information contact John Saecker at x1695.

Security Reminder



Weapons or dangerous materials on NASA property or facilities is strictly prohibited, unless authorized by NASA. Employees and visitors shall not possess, transport, or store firearms or items likely to produce substantial injury or damage to persons or property.

For more information, call the Security Office at x1357.

Flu Shots

There is still time to receive the flu vaccine for this year.

The vaccine is an inactivated influenza vaccine, not a live virus vaccine.

To schedule an appointment for the influenza vaccine, call the Wallops Health Unit at x1266 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

How to Enroll in Additional Vision and Dental Coverage

Civil service employees who want additional vision and/or dental insurance should log on to www.BENEFEDS.com. Create a log in and fill out the requested information, including any coverage under FEHB. Pick desired additional plans and print the confirmation.

For help, call customer service at 1-877-888-3337 or email: Service@BENEFEDS.com

Plans take effect in January 2008 and continue each year until cancelled. Announcements for the Federal Benefits Open Season can be found at: <https://www.nssc.nasa.gov>



The staff of the Wallops Weather Office would like to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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